



## Maryland Department of Agriculture News Digest November 2015



A Message from Secretary Joe Bartenfelder

### Challenges and Opportunities Awaiting Maryland Farmers in 2016

Maryland's 12,300 farms are the backbone of our local rural economies that work every day to provide the food and fiber needs of our state and nation - even the world.

In Maryland, we are fortunate to have Governor Larry Hogan who is dedicated and determined to serve agriculture and who understands that farmers were the original environmentalists and stewards of the land, and we will continue to be.

The most important challenge Maryland agriculture will face in 2016 is helping our elected officials and the general public understand the environmental stewardship efforts of our farmers and progress made to date to preserve our precious natural resources. We also must help them better understand the importance of Maryland agriculture to our quality of life and the overall economy.



Secretary Joe Bartenfelder

[Read the complete blog post here](#)

### Maryland Farm & Harvest, Season 3

*Episode 302 of Maryland Farm & Harvest will air Tuesday, November 17 at 7 p.m. on MPT.*



This week's episode covers a variety of topics including dairy farmers making an extra effort to preserve the Chesapeake Bay. [Watch Online.](#)

You can catch up on Seasons 1 & 2 of *Maryland Farm & Harvest* anytime on the show's [website.](#)

Headlines from Md. Dept. of Agriculture - General News Wrap Up

[Md. Dept. of Agriculture Extends Deadline for Manure Application to November 30](#)

[Agriculture Department's Canine Apiary Inspector Passes Certification Test](#)

[Now is a Great Time to Enjoy Maryland Apples](#)

[Md. Dept. of Agriculture to Award nearly \\$600K in Grants to Help Reduce Euthanasia Rates of Companion Animals and Un-owned Cats Across the State](#)

[Try a Fresh, Local Turkey this Thanksgiving - Order Yours Before It's Too Late](#)

[USDA Awards \\$5 Million for Maryland-Virginia Regional Partnership to Install Ethanol Pumps](#)

## [Maryland Agricultural Commission Seeks Agri-Tourism Nominations](#)

## [Double Gold Medal Winners Receive Horse Industry Award; Touch of Class Awards Presented to Residents of Frederick, Laurel](#)



## [Maryland](#)



## [Announces Funding for Fruits and Vegetables Crops](#)

## [Md. Urges Hurricane Plans to Include Pets](#)

## [Md. Urges Hurricane Plans to Livestock; Offers Crop Insurance Reminders for Farmers](#)

## [MDA Honors Employees with Long Service Awards; Employee of the Year and Employee of the Quarter Honored](#)

## [State Agriculture Leaders Urge Poultry Growers to Be on Guard for Deadly Bird Flu](#)

## [Federal, State, Local Leaders Kick off Statewide Farm to School Celebration](#)

[Read all press releases](#)

### [New on the website - Avian Influenza](#)

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has added several resources to its website to help keep everyone informed about High Path Avian Influenza in Maryland.

- The main portal with complete background information about HPAI can be found at: [www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/avianflu)
- In the event of an actual outbreak, updates will be posted on a newly launched **Bird Flu Blog**. We will post updates here as frequently as necessary.
- In addition, we have set up a dedicated twitter feed [@MdBirdFlu](#) to help reinforce all information in our press releases, blog posts, etc.
- A **Bird Flu Press Kit** is being created to help media representatives cover a Bird Flu event in Maryland.



### [Md. Dept. of Agriculture in Pictures & Video](#)

*We post photos to **Flickr** after an event. These photos are free for anyone (including media) to download & use. We just ask that you credit MDA (or the photographer noted) if you use them.*

With the General Assembly Session around the corner, Secretary Bartenfelder invited lawmakers to tour 16 different farms in seven counties. These tours gave lawmakers an opportunity to see how current/future regulations impact the farm industry. You can read more about the tours on our **Blog** and [See photos here](#).

In addition to the lawmakers, the Maryland Ag Commission has conducting its own farm tours. [See photos here](#).

He's more than just a pretty face. Mack the Bee Dog and his owner Cybil Preston were recently certified as an American Foulbrood detection team. [See photos here](#).



The holidays are a busy time of year for the MDA Cows. Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and

Elsie and Elmer are dressed for the occasion. [See photos here.](#)

- See all Md. Dept. of Agriculture [Flickr albums.](#)
- See Md. Dept. of Agriculture's [Instagram photos](#) (best viewed on a mobile device)
- [The Maryland's Best YouTube channel](#) has lots of short farmer profiles you can watch anywhere. Visit a farm without leaving home!

### Facebook: You're Invited to Like Us!

We update our [Facebook](#) page several times a week.

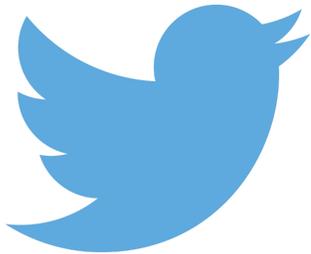
### We like you! Come like us!

Come join us on Facebook! You'll see both fun and serious posts. You do not need a Facebook account to view our pages, but if you have an account, you can post comments and tell us what's on your mind.

- [Md. Dept. of Agriculture's Official Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland's Best Facebook page](#)
- [Maryland Horse Industry Board Facebook Page](#)
- [Maryland Farm to School Facebook page](#)



### Follow Us on Twitter



[@MdAgDept](#) - the official Twitter account of the Maryland Department of Agriculture

[@MdsBest](#) - the Twitter feed for MDA's Marketing Office and the Maryland's Best Program

[@MdEquines](#) - the Twitter feed for MDA's Maryland Horse Industry Board

[@MdFarm2School](#) - the Twitter for MDA's Farm to School Program

### We invite your feedback

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We are always looking for ways to improve how we serve our constituents. Please send your comments, suggestions and ideas to [mda.news@maryland.gov](mailto:mda.news@maryland.gov) or call 410-841-5881. Or contact:

- Julie Oberg, Communications Director
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